

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:JFKEANE:MEM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 147099

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, MX

SUBJECT: RETURN OF MEXICAN CURRENCIES COLLECTED AT
VERACRUZ IN 1914

1. AN EXAMINATION AND AUDIT OF ALL ITEMS HELD IN SAFE-KEEPING BY THE FORMER OFFICE OF THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES RESULTED IN THE DISCOVERY OF MEXICAN PAPER CURRENCY, BONDS AND STAMPS WITH A FACE VALUE OF SOME TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION PESOS, UNITED STATES CURRENCY VALUED AT DOLS 1904.96 AND MEXICAN GOLD AND SILVER COIN WITH A FACE VALUE OF P3903.71, WHICH WAS COLLECTED BY THE UNITED STATES EXPEDITIONARY FORCES IN MEXICO WHILE THEY WERE ADMINISTERING THE AFFAIRS OF VERACRUZ IN 1914. RECORDS INDICATED THAT THESE CURRENCIES WERE DEPOSITED IN TREASURY VAULT IN 1939, AND THAT QUOTE A METAL BOX THAT WAS EARLIER A PART OF THE DEPOSIT, AND WHICH PRESUMABLY CONTAINED SOME OR ALL OF THE OTHER VALUABLES UNQUOTE (ALL THE FUNDS HAVING A VALUE AT THE PRESENT TIME) WAS WITHDRAWN IN 1944. PRESUMABLY THE SEALED BOX NOW AT TREASURY ONLY CONTAINS MEXICAN PAPER OBLIGATIONS.

2. TREASURY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE BOX OF MEXICAN PAPER

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OBLIGATIONS WITHDRAWN. UNLESS THE EMBASSY OBJECTS,

STATE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY WANT TO
RETURN THESE OBLIGATIONS TO THE GOM, EITHER THROUGH
MEXICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR THROUGH YOU. NATURALLY,
WE WOULD NOT WANT THE TRANSFER TO PROVOKE MEXICAN
SENSITIVITIES, HENCE, IF YOU AGREE, IT WOULD BE DONE
DISCREETLY. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR VIEWS.
INGERSOLL

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